

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-06 SAM-01 /075 W
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O 082255Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8463

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CU, AO, CA

SUBJ: QUERY RE CUBAN USE OF LEASED AIR CANADA DC-8S
FOR FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA

1. ON JANUARY 7, USIS RECEIVED QUERY FROM CORRESPONDENTS MARK WILSON OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWSPAPER VANCOUVER PROVINCE CONCERNING TWO SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD DC-8 AIRCRAFT LEASED BY CUBA FROM AIR CANADA SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY FEBRUARY 8 AND 28, RESPECTIVELY, TO INAUGURATE HAVANA-MONTREAL SERVICE IN MAY. WILSON ASKED WHAT US REACTION WOULD BE IF CUBA USED THESE AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT TROOPS TO ANGOLA. AFTER CHECKING WITH DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER, USIS OFFICER REPLIED THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT RESPOND TO HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION BUT REITERATED US POSITION THAT US STRONGLY URGED END OF ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GOC OBTAINED US APPROVAL PRIOR TO SIGNING AIRCRAFT LEASE WITH CUBA LATE IN 1975. AVIATION AGREEMENT SIGNED SEPTEMBER 26, 1975 (FORWARDED TO EB/OA/AN-RIMAS OCTOBER 10) PROVIDES BASIS FOR CUBA-CANADA SERVICE ON WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED. WE NOT AWARE OF DC-8 MODEL NUMBER AND SPECIFIC
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CONFORMATION OF AIRCRAFT, BUT PRESUMABLY THEY COULD

FLY HAVANA-CONAKRY NON-STOP WITH NORMAL LEAD. EXTAFF
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA HAS ADVISED POLCOUNS
THAT IN NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY WITH CUBA,
GOC IS INSISTING ON RESTRICTION AGAINST USE OF THESE
AIRCRAFT FOR ANY MILITARY PURPOSE. (HE STRESSED EXTREME
CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS INFO). HE OBSERVED THAT LAST
THING GOC WANTS IS TO HAVE CUBAN TROOPS FLOWN TO ANGOLA
IN CANADIAN AIRCRAFT. TCO PLANS DISCUSS SUBJECT DURING CALL
ON NEW DIRECTOR EXTAFF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ENERGY DIVISION MORNING JANUARY 9. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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